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Parks and Open  
Space Planning

Parks Maintenance

Urban Forestry

Natural Resources



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Dear Fairmount Park Neighbor:

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to attend the design workshop! With your help, I feel we've been able to put together a plan that will meet the needs of the neighborhood for years to come.

As we discussed at the end of the last workshop (March 3<sup>rd</sup>), I'm sending out a copy of the draft concept plan to meeting attendees for comment. Please have a look at the enclosed plan and respond with comments by phone (682-4915), email ([robin.a.hostick@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:robin.a.hostick@ci.eugene.or.us)), or snail mail (address at left) within the next month or so.

The draft concept plan shows the following, based on neighborhood input:

- ✓ New ADA-accessible paths
- ✓ Re-configured playground
- ✓ Shelter
- ✓ Small, informal basketball court WITH spray play feature AND four-square
- ✓ Park furniture (picnic tables, benches, trash cans, bike racks, drinking fountain)

Although it isn't shown explicitly on the plan, drainage would be installed at the same time the water feature is installed (when there is access to drain connections).

Note that the playground surface can remain beach sand, however sand is not ADA-accessible and I would strongly recommend that it be converted to an ADA-accessible, engineered wood fiber surface. This would mean that the sand play feature of the park would likely go away, unless people wanted to see more of the open lawn area converted to a hard surface (based on feedback, lawn appears to be a higher priority). A separate sand area would also add cost to both construction and, to a greater extent, maintenance.

Both the north and east pathways will be accessible, and can be constructed without making major modifications to the existing park amenities. The east pathway is the most affordable accessible route to the existing playground and restroom, and would also partially address the drainage issue (no more soggy shoes). Therefore, this is the preferred option for use of current funding. Based on the current schedule, we expect construction of the accessible pathway to get underway towards the end of the summer.

As I mentioned at the meeting, this path is the only currently funded improvement for the park. Again, since the park is currently developed and not in great need compared to many other parks in the system, City funding for other improvements is unlikely to come soon. A preliminary cost estimate indicates a total project cost of \$250,000. This reflects the likely cost to the City for design and engineering fees, permitting, inspection, etc. (25%) and contracted construction (75%). While this does seem like a lot of money for such a small park, the estimate reflects real contract prices, some of which have increased dramatically over the past year. In my estimation, the design proposes durable facilities constructed with basic materials in as efficient a configuration as possible to serve the desired function.

The good news is, I've created the design to be somewhat "modular," meaning that it can easily be broken out into phases (ex: paths, shelter, basketball/water/4-square, circulation area/benches) which can be constructed separately. Naturally it's less expensive to construct it all at once from a contracting standpoint, but if fundraising or in-kind donations become available, a phased construction is very

useful. In addition, in-kind donations can be far less expensive than contracted work, due to the fact that overhead is reduced, bid requirements do not apply, and materials/labor can be provided free or at-cost. Therefore, if the Fairmount Neighborhood does pull together around a fundraising project, you have some options to work with.

Next steps: the plan will be uploaded to the Fairmount Park web page (<http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/fairmount/index.htm>) this week, including some of the information I shared with you in this note. As I mentioned, I will continue to solicit comment over the next month or so. If there's a consistent opinion to modify the plan, I will propose changes and respond with a revised concept in the same manner as this letter. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the project, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 682-4915. Thanks again for your participation!

Sincerely,

Robin Alan Hostick  
Landscape Architect